97-84058-7

Lubin, David

The rural credit measure

[Rome]

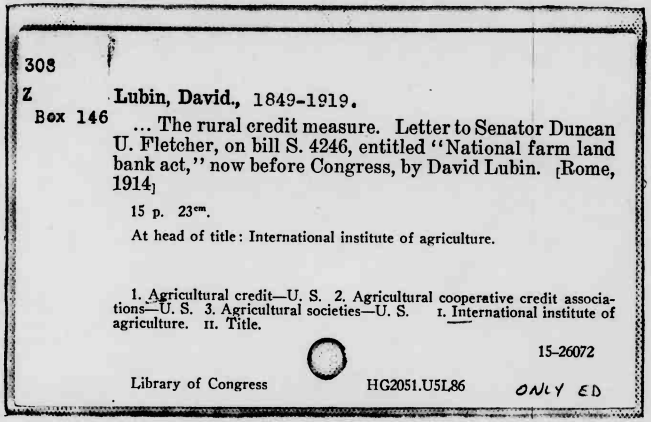
[1914]

97-84058-7
MASTER NEGATIVE #

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES
PRESERVATION DIVISION

BIBLIOGRAPHIC MICROFORM TARGET

ORIGINAL MATERIAL AS FILMED - EXISTING BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD



308
Z
Box 146

Lubin, David., 1849-1919.

... The rural credit measure. Letter to Senator Duncan U. Fletcher, on bill S. 4246, entitled "National farm land bank act," now before Congress, by David Lubin. [Rome, 1914]

15 p. 23cm.

At head of title: International institute of agriculture.

1. Agricultural credit—U. S. 2. Agricultural cooperative credit associations—U. S. 3. Agricultural societies—U. S. I. International institute of agriculture. II. Title.

15-26072

Library of Congress HG2051.U5L86 ONLY ED

RESTRICTIONS ON USE: Reproductions may not be made without permission from Columbia University Libraries.

TECHNICAL MICROFORM DATA

FILM SIZE: 35mm REDUCTION RATIO: 10:1 IMAGE PLACEMENT: IA (IIA) IB IIB

DATE FILMED: 3-28-97 INITIALS: MS

TRACKING # : 22973

FILMED BY PRESERVATION RESOURCES, BETHLEHEM, PA.

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE

308
Z
Box 146

THE RURAL CREDIT MEASURE

LETTER TO SENATOR DUNCAN U. FLETCHER

ON BILL *S.* 4246, ENTITLED

"National Farm Land Bank Act"

NOW BEFORE CONGRESS

BY

DAVID LUBIN.

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE,
ROME, ITALY, FEB. 26th 1914.

DEAR SENATOR FLETCHER:

I have received the copy of Bill S. 4246, showing the project on rural credit formulated by the Commissions that went to Europe, which you inform me you have introduced in the Senate and which Mr. Moss has introduced into the House of Representatives. I have also received your letter of January 29th and Dr. Owens' of January 30th, in which the request is made:

"I will be glad to have you criticise the Bill".

Accordingly I hand you this criticism, which I am making public.

I have gone over the measure several times and have had it gone over (unofficially) by Mr. Montgomery, head rédacteur of the Bureau of Co-operative Institutions of this Institute, whose opinion I enclose. I am sorry to say that the Bill is disappointing to me.

The Movement.

As you know, in April 1912, the movement for the adaptation and adoption of European cooperative credit in the United States was started at the Nashville Conference. This movement was intended to work for a cooperative credit system by farmers for farmers.

In July of that year the American Bankers Association sent a committee to Europe to enquire into land-mortgage banks by bankers.

Thus the movement for rural credit seemed to line up in two distinct divisions:

One party favored the establishment of land-mortgage banks.

The other party favored the establishment of farmers' cooperative credit associations.

In April, 1913, the American Commission, supplemented by the United States Commission, proceeded on its tour to Europe to investigate such farmers' cooperative associations and report on them with a view to adoption.

By Farmers For Farmers.

This was in accordance with the program advocated at the Nashville conference; this was the plan advocated by you in your speech in the Senate, August, 1912, when you said:

"The European cooperative rural credit systems which we shall examine and endeavor to apply here, are substantially in the hands of farmers, operated by farmers, for farmers. Clearly and persistently this must be borne in mind".

With you, I was in favor of this farmers' plan, and so told Ambassador Herrick and some of the members of the Committee of the American Bankers Association when I met them by invitation in Paris, July, 1912.

Now, on examining Bill S. 4246 I find it to be, in substance, a plan for mortgage banks by bankers, instead of being for cooperative mortgage associations "operated by farmers for farmers".

True, the text of the Bill makes mention of a cooperative phase, but this phase, for reasons given by Mr. Montgomery, would, substantially, be rendered inoperative. Thus the Bill, which was intended to provide for a rural co-operative credit system "by and for American farmers", provides instead for a system of mortgage banks.

If Bill S. 4246 pass I believe it would tend to so standardise the farm-mortgage business as to lend itself readily to an understanding between the proposed banks for the general control of terms and interest rates to the exclusion of a voice in the matter by the farmers.

In short, it seems to me that the bill would be likely to create an artificial barrier between the farmers and the lending public.

If there were no farmers' co-operative rural credit systems in Europe, or if it were impossible to adapt these systems to American needs, would it not have been sufficient for both Commissions to have so reported, and thus terminated their enquiry? But why terminate it by drawing up a bill for a system of mortgage banks?

A Paternalistic Measure.

And right here I may be permitted a few words on the Norris-Bathrick Bill, which seems to have the endorsement of the National Grange.

This Bill would create a Bureau in the Department of Agriculture and have the Government make the loans to the farmers on farm-land mortgages..

While this measure has the merit of excluding the banker from its system, this merit is outweighed by two serious defects; the first is that it is not co-operative; the second is that instead of borrowing from the people direct, it intends to borrow from the Government. Its adoption would be equivalent to rank paternalism. If the Government is to lend money on farm-lands to farmers, why not on city real estate to merchants, to manufacturers, to shoemakers, carpenters, and labor-unions?

And now comes the Master of the National Grange, who is reported in the "Sacramento Union", January 18th, as having made two interesting statements: first, that the farmers "require long time credit at the lowest possible interest"; and, second, that "there is no better security today than farm-mortgages".

The first statement deserves the assent of all the American people; but the second statement requires an emphatic qualification before it can have the value it is intended to have.

Is there no better Security?

Under present conditions there are two reasons why farm mortgages are far from being the best of security. Please observe; under the present diversity prevailing in the laws of the different states in relation to land, a farm mortgage can only have a local value, and is, therefore, subject to a high interest rate. If we were to assemble in Central Park, New York, all the lawyers in the United States who now, directly and indirectly, make a living out of land-title disputes, they would probably fill a very large space of the Park.

Again, if these mortgages were to be converted into a liquid asset, into a bond which should sell at par or near par anywhere, so as to drive

the interest rate down to the level of the " better security ", not only would the laws affecting land-titles and transfers have to be changed and unified, but the system of appraisement of land values would have to be of a character that should inspire everywhere unquestioned faith in their just valuation.

These two points, as I have already shown in previous communications, are covered under the Landschaft system in Germany, and because they are covered the Landschaft bonds issued on the land mortgages can be sold by the farmers direct, on the open market, at the same rate and at a lower rate of interest than imperial German bonds.

And now to return to Bill S. 4246.

It is quite clear that the program mapped out at the Nashville Conference, the program you advocated, the program on which the Commissions came to Europe, and which was to be embodied in a Bill, called for the establishment of co-operative credit associations " in the hands of farmers, operated by farmers, for farmers ". And is this the program embodied in Bill S. 4246? I fail to see it.

The Landschaft.

But is there no farmers' co-operative mortgage system in Europe suited to meet these requirements? There certainly is. What is it? It is a system based on associations of borrowers, whereas this Bill provides for corporations of lenders. The farmers' co-operative mortgage associations that I refer to are known as the Landschaft, and are fully described in the first part of the Report of the American Commission, S. D. 214, pages 354-364 and 381-389. It is a system, as you know, which can be put into operation without the formation of banks, and without its being necessary for farmers to engage in banking. Under this Landschaft system an association of farmers obtains its money at first hand from the people direct, and at much lower rates of interest than could be obtained through unsubsidised banks anywhere.

And is not this Landschaft system applicable in the United States? Can it not be adapted to the needs of the American farmer? What valid arguments have been brought forward to show that it cannot? None that I know of.

But the farmers should understand that this is not the time for mere arguments. Be the logic ever so clear, be the arguments ever so convincing, they can be knocked on the head by the mere brute force of organised interests. The farmers are a heterogeneous body, unorganised, therefore without power, and are thus the sport of organised forces.

A National Council of Agriculture.

If this is true, what is the remedy? This: the American farmers should organise; they should become a homogeneous body. Their organisation should begin with the township, then the county, then the state, and all this should culminate in a great National Council. And this great National Council should not be official, for it would then be static, ineffective; nor should it be non-official, for it would then talk itself to death and be ineffective. To be effective it should, like the Landwirtschaftsrat of Germany, be semi-official. Were the farmers united into one grand semi-official national organisation, modelled after the Landwirtschaftsrat of Germany, they would then be an effective fighting power among effective fighting powers.

And in expressing this view of the Landwirtschaftsrat I am but restating what I have repeatedly stated in my letters to you before the Commissions came to Europe.

Let me quote but one instance of the many.

In my letter to you on this subject of May 9th, 1912, I made a statement which was printed and extensively circulated. After calling your attention to the Landwirtschaftsrat, I said:

" Such a semi-official body, with the Secretary of Agriculture as its presiding officer, could not alone handle the adaptation of the European rural credit systems in the United States to advantage, but could handle to advantage all other agricultural economic measures, as is done in Germany ".

To which you replied, (May 21st, 1912):

" Your suggestion regarding an organisation copied after the German plan (Landwirtschaftsrat) is a very good one ..... I would be glad to know of the German plan more in detail ".

I then sent you the following, being a translation of a brief statement handed me by the Secretary General of the International Institute of Agriculture, on this German Landwirtschaftsrat.

" Throughout Germany there are agricultural associations formed for the purpose of protecting the administrative and legislative interests of agriculture. They exist in all the States of the Federation, and are federated in each Province into Central Associations, and these Central Provincial Associations are federated into Central State organisations.

" On the foundation of the German Empire these agricultural associations were united into one single body, representative of the whole of the Empire, and thus, in 1872, the German Landwirtschaftsrat was formed.

" It consists of 74 members (25 for Prussia and 49 for the other German States) elected by the Central Associations. It is recognised officially, both by the Governments of the several States and by the Imperial Government, as the official legal representative of the intests of German agriculture.

"Art. 1 of its statutes says: "The purpose of the Landwirtschaftsrat is to look after the interests of agriculture. It must not only give its opinion and advice upon request, but must address itself direct to the Chancellor or to the Imperial Parliament whenever these interests may be favored or injured by imperial legislative or administrative measures."

An Opinion.

Let me quote what the Secretary General of the Landwirtschaftsrat, Dr. Dade of Berlin, told me on the subject:

"The German Empire is composed of 24 States. The largest of these is the Kingdom of Prussia which is divided into 12 provinces. Each of these provinces is required by Prussian law to elect a Chamber of Agriculture. The same system prevails in the other German States; all have their Chambers of Agriculture instituted under law. Each of these Chambers of Agriculture sends one or more delegates, proportionate to its importance, to the German Landwirtschaftsrat, which thus becomes the official Council of Agriculture for the whole of the German Empire. The Landwirtschaftsrat acts as an official Advisory Board, with right of criticism and initiative on all agricultural legislation affecting the whole of the German Empire.....

"You can see what power such a body can exercise if you will transfer it to the United States. Just imagine that in every State you had an organisation counting some 20,000 members, and that these were all federated, and you had, sitting in Washington, at stated periods, the Council elected by these farmers of all the States to watch over their interests in matters of legislation".

The question was then asked:

Q. What would be the position of agriculture in Germany if you had no such organisation?

A. We could do nothing; we should have no influence either on home or foreign policy.

In conclusion, my dear Senator, I wish to say that you should bear in mind that the honor of your achievement in behalf of the American farmer need not include an endeavor to hastily press this measure (Bill S. 4246) for passage by Congress, especially so if there be room for doubt as to the wisdom of so doing. Undue haste in this direction would be likely to jeopardise the honor you are entitled to for what you have so far achieved. The 916 page Report on the European enquiry is here; it is here through your effort, and that Report is the fullest, clearest, and most authentic statement of the case for rural credit now in print anywhere.

Its pages show that the statements therein are official, for they were given under government auspices in each country visited, and were made by the highest authorities on the subject. This is the great work you have done, and it is an historic work, not merely of value to the American people but to the people of all the world.

Now, in completing this work by national legislation there should be no stumbling by the way. You should present to Congress only such

a measure for rural credit as shall truly be, to quote your words, "in the hands of the farmers, operated by farmers, for farmers", and thus fitly supplement by this second labor the historic work you have already accomplished in the production of the Report.

The Status Quo: how influenced.

The above, then, is the criticism, which I have been asked to give. If the points here raised be valid it would seem to me that the following should be done:

First, that Bill S. 4246 should be held in abeyance for the present;

Second, that all efforts should be concentrated on materialising in the United States an organisation on the-lines of the Landwirtschaftsrat, and the first labors of such an organisation should be to aid in the up-building of the most practicable co-operative rural credit system for the American farmers.

The American farmers, through their adaptation of the Landwirtschaftsrat would then be enabled to exert in the United States, as do the German farmers in Germany, their rightful measure of power among the powers which influence the "status quo". The American farmers would thus become an essential factor in the maintenance of that equilibrium of forces most conducive to the social, economic, and political welfare of the American people. They would thus be given an opportunity to begin their labors by assembling the facts bearing on the subject of rural credit, and could then weigh, adjust, adapt, and adopt them to the end that the most practicable cooperative rural credit system be established in the United States.

With the renewed assurance of my high esteem, I am,

Yours very sincerely,

David Lubin,
Delegate of the United States,
International Institute of Agriculture, Rome, Italy.

COMMENTS ON CORRESPONDENCE

WITH VARIOUS FARM LEADERS

ON

COOPERATIVE RURAL CREDIT

AND ON

A NATIONAL COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURE

SEMI-OFFICIAL IN CHARACTER

A Choice of two Methods.

Among my correspondents on the formation of a National Council of Agriculture, is Mr. O. D. Hill, Secretary of the Farmers' National Congress. In a letter of January 25th, Mr. Hill enters sympathetically into this question, but he has some grave misgivings as to how such an organisation could be formed and on what lines it could operate. He is inclined to believe that the " amalgamation of so many societies in one will destroy the power and individuality " of each.

Mr. Hill's point is well taken, but not necessarily final. The answer to the point he raises all depends on how the promoters would set about their task. And right here I wish to state that two methods present themselves for so doing.

One is that individuals and committees proceed to formulate a plan; the other is that the German Landwirtschaftsrat be studied; that its provisions be taken up *seriatim*, and adapted and adopted paragraph by paragraph.

This latter mode, in my opinion, has many advantages which the first mode has not got.

Under the first mode the devisors of the plan would be travelling on untrodden ground, when there is danger of blending the practical with the impractical. And even if a Committee should be so fortunate as to formulate a practical plan, that plan might still be questioned and side-tracked, just as if it were impractical.

" How do you know that it would work? " would be the ever recurrent question; and the answer could only be: " I think it will ". " But I think it won't ". And in such a deadlock there is grave danger that all would end in inaction.

The Landwirtschaftsrat as Model.

The case would be different were the plan and details worked out from the German Landwirtschaftsrat. If the question were then put; " How do you know that it will work? " the answer would be " Our plans and details are deduced from the plans and details of the Landwirtschaftsrat which is already a working institution in a leading country; it has a history; it has been in operation for years; it is in operation today ".

As an instance of the value of such precedent, in answering the point raised by Mr. Hill I drew his attention to the fact that under the Landwirtschaftsrat each local or State organisation retains its full individuality. In fact it provides for a federation similar to the federation of the United States. Each association or group of same can be compared to a State, with its own legislature, and the representatives of these in the national council compose the National Federation. Such a National Federation would give the American farmers similar power and standing in the United States to that which the Landwirtschaftsrat gives to the farmers in Germany.

The special advantages the taking of this German system as a model would afford are the following:

First, the study of the German laws bearing on this system would offer a working model in formulating practical State and National legislation along similar lines in the United States.

Second, it would elucidate the mode of election, selection, and representation on the local, state and national councils.

Third, it would supply useful details as to mode of procedure, and thus aid in formulating the bye-laws in the local, State, and Federal Councils.

To come up at Fort Worth.

In a letter of Jan. 26th on the national federation of all agricultural societies Mr. J. H. Kimble of the Farmers' National Congress says that the subject will come up at the meeting in Fort Worth, Texas, on October 14-17 next. He goes on to say: " I pushed this matter very vigorously for two years and thoroughly believe in it ". Believe in what? In the federation of all agricultural societies? Nothing seems simpler than this statement; but is it so simple? Evidently not, when we come down to a practical working basis, for where are the plans and details? These have yet to be shown. Up to the present time the advocates of national federation have simply gotten as far as an ideal; they have not yet provided a practical, working basis. It is as if someone were to send in an application for a patent on a

device, asserting how good it would be, submitting the claims, but without giving specification or drawings.

Now, there is a plan for national agricutural federation, a plan which would serve the American farmers as a model for a working basis, a plan which took many years of painstaking labor to develope and put into practical working shape. That plan, as was indicated above, is that of the Landwirtschaftsrat, which, with but slight modifications, would suit American conditions.

A Political Necessity.

Mr. Delano, Secretary Treasurer of the Nebraska Farmers' Congress, in a letter of January 27th, says.

"The idea of the National Agricultural Council is sound, but it must originate among the farmers that farm the land, and not among the farmers that farm the farmers".

There is no objection that I can see to this statement. I believe that the farmers should take the matter up and ask the cooperation of the Department of Agriculture. To my knowledge there has not been a time when the Department was better prepared or better disposed to work along these lines than now.

If I may be permitted a criticism on the difference between "the farmer that farms the land" in the United States, and the " farmer that farms the land " in Germany, I would say that while the farmer in the United States is busy talking, the farmer in Germany is busy working.

" But how ? Is the farmer in Germany so much brighter than the American farmer ? "

Not a bit of it ; but the German farmer has been fortunate in having the best brains of Germany work for him, showing him just what to do.

Why have the best brains been working for him ? Because it is a political necessity that they should do so. It is seen that the German farmer is the mainstay of the political stability of Germany and that he is most effectively so when his economic status is on the soundest basis. This phase of the question is just now coming to the front in the United States, as is indicated by the new and intense energy being set in motion by the Department of Agriculture.

Hard Intelligent Thinking.

And now to return to the subject at issue. Ely Mayo, the actor, used to say in his piece: " Be sure you're right, then go ahead ". And so in the matter of national federation for agriculture. At the present time the American farmer seems to be "long on holler" and " short on action", while the banker, the Wall Street man whom he complains of, is "short on holler"

and " long on action ". Why not for a change try the banker's plan, the Wall Street plan ? I think that in place of general pessimistic complaining it would be more sensible to take the German Landwirtschaftsrat system ; gather up all the official and authoritative facts concerning it ; give each sentence, each paragraph, good, hard, intelligent thinking ; whip this system into shape for American needs ; and then adopt it. Once adopted the economic status of the American farmer would be on much more progressive lines.

It should be Semi-Official.

Mr. James B. Morman, of Kensigton, Md., in his letter to me of February 16th., says :

There are two fundamental problems confronting American farmers, namely, organisation and rural credit. There can be no sound agricultural credit system until the farmers are organised.....

In the matter of rural organisation Europe vastly excels the United States....

The Landwirtschaftsrat is an organised, semi-official, agricultural assembly representing the smallest rural units and extending to the heart of the German Empire... with the right of initiative in legislation for the farmers' interests and the further right of criticism of any proposed or impending legislation. Such organisations have lifted European agriculture out of chaos, and have organised it on a sound economic basis....

We have no such organisations of farmers in this country. There are a few that are national in name but whose scope is not broad enough to guard the farmers' economic, financial and political interests...

I believe that the German Landwirtschaftsrat system could be applied in the United States. Each State has its own Department of Agriculture and representatives from these agencies could meet as a semi-official body, with the Secretary of Agriculture presiding, and consider the interests of the farmer from a national as well as a sectional view-point. This could well be the American Council of Agriculture.

I fully agree with the foregoing statement by Mr. Morman with the exception of the last paragraph. The kind of organisation he there indicates differs essentially from that of the Landwirtschaftsrat. While the organisation outlined by Mr. Morman would render the Council a purely official body, the character of organisation of the German Landwirtschaftsrat renders it on the contrary, semi-official. As an official organisation the Council would be static, immobile, ineffective; as an unofficial body it would be dynamic, too dynamic, but also ineffective, It is only when the organisation combines both the non-official and the official character, as in Germany, and becomes a semi-official body, that it is both dynamic and effective.

Some Important Questions.

Mr. H. Jurgensen, of the Farmers' Educational and Cooperative Union of Wilbur, Washington, writes on Feb. 2nd:

"After looking over the literature you sent me regarding the Landwirtschaftsrat, I believe something like it would be just what we want in the United States. I am not sure as to just how the members of the Chamber of Agriculture should be elected. There should be so many in each State. What do you think? Should they be elected by general suffrage, or so many from the Farmers' Union, so many from the State Grange, and some appointed by the governor?"

Mr. John P. Doyle, Secretary of the Farmers' Educational and Cooperative Union of Illinois, raises a similar point. He says:

"I am in hearty accord with your views on an American Landwirtschaftsrat",

and he asks:

"Could not each organisation, Grange, Union, Equity, etc., be represented by a delegate according to its numerical strength?"

Mr. Jurgensen and Mr. Doyle raise here some important questions which I am not able to answer off hand. In fact, they should not be answered off hand by anyone. Before adapting the Landwirtschaftsrat to American needs a serious study will have to be made of it by competent committees of farmers and economists. Each sentence, each paragraph, each clause, each chapter and each division, before being adopted, will have to be subjected to close scrutiny and logical debate. Only after all this has been done may we expect sound, practical answers to Mr. Jurgensen's and Mr. Doyle's queries.

As being pertinent to all this, it may not be out of place to assert that there is perhaps no other body of people in all the world that is so deluged with questions and answers as the American farmer. The questions pop up, like "Jack-in-the-box," and are forthwith answered, on the spur of the moment, by some who know a little on the subject and by very many who know nothing at all. And the result is pitiably incommensurate with the effort.

What wonder! Supposing there were no Boards of Trade, no Chambers of Commerce, no Commercial Rating Companies, and no Clearance Houses, in what condition would Commerce and Finance be then? In a similar condition to that in which the farmers are now; there would then be the same groping, gesticulating, vociferating impotency in Commerce and Finance that there is now in Agriculture.

Means to Ends.

We all understand that we may only produce a yard of cotton cloth by applying the proper means to ends. Now if we are to be so careful in applying means to ends in the production of a yard of cloth which only costs ten cents, we surely ought to be much more careful to apply right means to ends in devising methods to place the industry of Agriculture on a parity in the economic struggle with Commerce and Finance.

On this subject Mr. G. M. Gannaway, President of the Farmers' Educational and Cooperative Union of Virginia, in his letter of February 9th, says:

"I am in hearty accord with you and believe the time is upon us for some very radical changes in America along the Landwirtschaftsrat system of Germany",

Mr. Owen A. MacGill, of McMinnville, Oregon: in his letter of Feb. 6th, writes:

"Secretary Houston has been quoted as saying: "The individual farmer acting alone is helpless. Nothing less than concerted action will suffice."

Continuing, Mr. MacGill says:

"Your proposal of establishing a similar institution to the Landwirtschaftsrat of Germany in the United States should meet with the approval of all those who have the rural welfare at heart. My hopes rise high when I think of its possibilities..... But your plan will encounter opposition from those in power because there are many interests who do not want the farmer in saddle, militant and aggressive."

The Fly-Wheel over the Centre.

The point raised by Mr. MacGill as to opposition is interesting. Be it remembered that it is all a question of getting "the fly-wheel over the centre". There certainly will be opposition, for how can that be called a struggle which is not opposed? But the question is not one of "opposition" so much as it is a question of power of resistance. Disunited groups of farmers may only offer desultory resistance, and of a character which renders it incoherent, illogical, incompetent as regards means, and irrelevant as to ends.

When once a rational system of comprehensive organisation would be formed, an organisation on the lines of the Landwirtschaftsrat, it would be the beginning of a change all along the line. Beginning with the township, the county, and the State it should culminate in a grand national organisation. When once this would be done the present disunited groups of farmers would then be whipped into a coherent, logical, competent, rele-

vant and comprehensive resistance power, a power sufficiently strong to stand its ground against any and all opposition.

The above statement coincides with the following remarks by Mr. Sprott, Manager of the Tulare County Citrus Fruit Exchange of California, in his letter on the subject of February 3rd, when he says :

" The idea of connecting all farmers of the country in a semi-official way into any one organisation certainly appeals to me. It would seem that it is the one link wanting to enable the agriculturists of the United States to build up the rural credit system and to assist in the enactment of such legislation as would promote the good of all. "

Mr. J. D. Ream, Master of the Nebraska State Grange, in his letter of February 7th, shows that his Grange is at work : he says :

" The Committee that has this matter under consideration will meet soon and we will try to have some action taken looking to arrangements for your suggestions to be considered by the whole State ".

In speaking of the needs for the Landwirtschaftsrat in a letter of January 31st, Mr. A. R. Shumway, Legislative Commissioner of the Farmers' Educational and Cooperative Union of Oregon, says :

" I can see where a federated national organisation of farmers would be of inestimable value to the farmers of the United States, and we never needed it more than now "

Mr. Shumway is certainly correct, and the Landwirtschaftsrat offers the model for such a federated organization.

An Opportunity to Express an Opinion,

In closing this document I wish to say that from correspondence at hand there seems to be pronounced dissatisfaction amongst the farmers at the hasty procedure in presenting the Rural Credit Bill S. 4246 in Congress. In my opinion this dissatisfaction is justified. The Commissions that went to Europe were not pledged to return to the United States and proceed forthwith to draft bills and present them to Congress for passage.

What was clearly understood was this: that the Commissions were to proceed to Europe; take down in shorthand the evidence given them ; ask Congress to print it in full, and in an abridged form for general circulation. In this way the people could be thoroughly informed on the subject, when conventions of farmers, through resolutions, could be given an opportunity to express opinions, and thus prepare the way for the drafting of bills to be presented to Congress.

Now, whether Bill S. 4246 be good or whether it be bad is one thing, and is immaterial for the present purpose. It is sufficient to know that the Bill is not the result of the expressed will of the American farmer, and for this reason alone, be the bill good or be it bad, it ought not to pass at this time. On page 16 of " The Way out of the Rut " is the following.

« This work should not be done vicariously for the American farmer ; it should not be done for him by bankers, nor should it be done for him by professional men, nor by men of leisure, nor by men of other occupations ; it should, primarily, be done by the American farmer himself.

The Mode of Procedure.

A sculptor may amuse himself without loss by modelling the clay before him first into a tramp and then into an Apollo; but national legislation on a topic so important as rural credit cannot be thus moulded and remoulded without loss. Mischief through such legislation would be sure to follow, and perhaps be of far-reaching extent before it could be mitigated or remedied.

The right mode of procedure in this matter seems to me clear. A larger edition of the 916 page book of «Evidence» (Senate Document 214) should be published, but above all it should be printed in abreviated form as a public document, say, of 100 pages, and a very large edition should be issued for general circulation. This, with the monthly publications by the International Institute of Agriculture on the subject, would offer the requisite data for study. These books should be spread abroad amongst the farmers generally, and in my opinion, the first study the farmers should make should be how to adapt the Landwirtschaftsrat plan into a National Council of Agriculture for the United States.

With this as a start, we could then reasonably expect that the next step likely to follow would be legislation for a rural credit system on sound economic lines and in the economic interest of the American farmer.

A limited number of copies of the document on the Landschaft may still be had on application to the American Delegate, International Institute of Agriculture, Rome, Italy.

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE

LIST OF THE DELEGATES
of the Adhering States to the Permanent Committee.

No. of order	ADHERING STATES	Classification of Adhering States	NAMES OF THE DELEGATES
1	Germany	I	T. Müller.
2	Argentine	I	O. Pinero Sorondo.
3	Austria	I	V. de Pozzi.
4	Hungary	I	E. de Miklós.
5	Belgium	IV	O. Bolle.
6	Brazil	I	A. Fialho.
7	Bulgaria	III	D. Rizoff.
8	Chile	I	Aldunate Bascunan
9	China	I	Sie-Kiu.
10	Costa Rica	V	R. Montealegre.
11	Cuba	V	. . . . .
12	Denmark	IV	A. de Oldenburg.
13	Ottoman Empire	I	Mehmed Djémil Bey.
14	Egypt	II	B. Chimirri.
15	Ecuador	V	Aldunate Bascunan'
16	Spain	I	E. R. de Celis.
17	United States	I	David Lubin
18	Ethiopia	V	G. Cuboni.
19	France	I	Louis-Dop.
20	Algeria	V	Louis-Dop.
21	Tunis	V	Louis-Dop.
22	Great Britain and Ireland	I	Sir James Wilson.
23	Australia	IV	Sir James Wilson.
24	Canada	II	Sir James Wilson.
25	British India	II	Sir James Wilson.
26	New Zealand	IV	Sir James Wilson.
27	Mauritius	V	Sir James Wilson.
28	Union of South Africa	IV	Sir James Wilson.
29	Greece	IV	M. Cocomillas.
30	Guatemala	V	J. Montefiore
31	Italy	I	R. Cappelli.
32	Eritrea and Italian Somaliland	IV	B. Chimirri.
33	Tripoli and Cirenaica	IV	B. Chimirri.
34	Japan	I	M. Ito.
35	Luxemburg	V	O. Bolle.
36	Mexico	II	G. A. Esteva.
37	Montenegro	V	G. Volpi.
38	Nicaragua	V	V. E. Biachi.
39	Norway	IV	G. Fjelstad.
40	Paraguay	V	Orazio Comes.
41	Holland	IV	W. B. Welderen Rengers.
42	Dutch East Indies	IV	W. B. Welderen Rengers.
43	Peru	V	Louis-Dop.
44	Persia	IV	A. del Gallo.
45	Portugal	IV	M. Amando Arthur de Stabra.
46	Roumania	I	Démétre C. Pennesco.
47	Russia	I	G. Zabiello.
48	Salvador	V	M. A. Bianchi Cagliesi.
49	San Marino	V	L. Luzzatti.
50	Servia	III	Carlo Scotti.
51	Sweden	IV	C. N. D. de Bildt.
52	Switzerland	IV	J. B. Pioda.
53	Uruguay	V	M. Enrique J. Rovira.
54	Columbia	..	. . . . .

PUBLICATIONS BY THE INSTITUTE

1. BULLETIN OF AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS (Monthly - in French, English, German Spanish Italian).

BULLETIN OF THE BUREAU OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INTELLIGENCE (Monthly, of about 250 pages. - Edition in French, English, German, Spanish and Italian).

BULLETIN OF AGRICULTURAL INTELLIGENCE AND PLANT DISEASES (Monthly, of about 250 pages. - Edition in French, English, German, Spanish and Italian).

3. BULLETIN BIBLIOGRAPHIQUE HEBDOMADAIRE (issued every Saturday).

MONOGRAPHS ON AGRICULTURAL CO-OPERATION IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES (vol. 1 and 2).

22973

END OF
TITLE